

Dr. Angelou's wisdom and eloquence inspired countless people around the world to better understand themselves and their neighbors. Dr. Angelou was also an influence and friend to many leaders throughout her life; an unyielding advocate for tolerance, equality, justice, and integrity in the face of intractable intolerance.

Mr. Speaker, we bid farewell to a singular voice and world renowned poet. However, we can all find solace in the certainty that Dr. Angelou's timeless works and example will inspire generations to come. Her spirit will continue to animate her words and her life will remain a testament to the power of perseverance.

WILLARD HIGH SCHOOL MUSIC  
EDUCATION AWARD

**HON. BILLY LONG**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 30, 2014*

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Willard Public School District on being named one of the Nation's Best Communities for Music Education by the National Association of Music Merchants (NAMM).

Chris Church has served as the band director for 32 years at Willard High School. Out of 1,200 students who attend Willard High School, more than 500 are involved in band, choir or both, with more still involved in other fine arts programs such as visual arts and theater.

Willard was one of three schools from Missouri to be honored. While other school districts' music programs are hit with cutbacks, music education funding has been protected at Willard.

I would also like to take this opportunity to say thank you to the teachers, students, administrators and the community of Willard for the support they have provided.

I am honored to recognize Willard Public School District on their efforts which led to the community being named one of the Nation's Best Communities for Music Education by the NAMM foundation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. ROBERT HURT**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 30, 2014*

Mr. HURT. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for rollcall vote No. 254. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE,  
AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2015

SPEECH OF

**HON. LOU BARLETTA**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 28, 2014*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under

consideration the bill (H.R. 4660) making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes:

Mr. BARLETTA. Madam Chair, I speak today in support of H.R. 4660, the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 2015.

Though we are not voting on a perfect piece of legislation, which rarely is the case, I will enthusiastically support this measure because I believe it accomplishes a number of goals that are very important to me and my constituents back home in the 11th District of Pennsylvania.

As was highlighted in a recent lengthy story in the New York Times, my home town of Hazleton is just like many cities of its size across the country—it is home to a persistent and growing heroin problem. And just recently, Pennsylvania's attorney general teamed up with a variety of law enforcement agencies to run Operation Rising Star, which was aimed at cracking down on the illegal drug trade. That's why I am pleased that the bill recognizes the recent surge in heroin use, overdose deaths, and trafficking, and encourages the Drug Enforcement Agency to increase its use of task forces to address the increasing heroin epidemic.

And, Madam Chair, as we all know, where there are illegal drugs, there will be gangs. I've been working closely on a bipartisan approach to gangs in my district, with Democratic State Senator John Yudichak, through a program called "Operation Gang-Up," which seeks to educate parents, educators, students, and communities about the dangers of gangs, warning signs of gang activity, and prevention techniques. At my request this bill, in addition to funding the FBI's Safe Streets Task Forces and the National Gang Intelligence Center, allocates \$10 million for regional task forces. In this way, Federal, State, and local law enforcement agencies can continue to do the important work of attacking gangs where they live and grow, and protect our children and neighborhoods.

And speaking of protecting our neighborhoods and public safety, I think it's worth noting that this bill calls on the Department of Justice to investigate discretionary enforcement decisions of the Department of Homeland Security. This is particularly relevant given the recent news that the Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agency had released more than 36,000 illegal immigrant inmates who had been found guilty of a total of almost 88,000 crimes. Those crimes included 116 homicides, 43 counts of voluntary manslaughter, and one classified as 'homicide-willful kill-public official-gun.' We should know more about why dangerous criminals have been released into our neighborhoods.

Reforming immigration laws has been the center of a lot of talk in Washington these days, and most of that has to do with the millions of illegal immigrants who are already present. One part of that discussion that is usually left out is how local governments must deal with illegal immigrants who are arrested and incarcerated in local jails and prisons.

Just this March, the Times Leader newspaper of Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania reported that my home county, Luzerne County, housed 184 illegal immigrants in the county's correctional facility last year, costing taxpayers

more than \$1.7 million. The county was reimbursed through the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program—not the full amount, mind you, but about \$130,000. Unfortunately, the President's budget proposal would entirely zero out that funding, leaving localities like Luzerne County stuck with the whole bill for locking up illegal immigrants who had broken the law. Let us remember that these are illegal immigrants who would not be around to break the law in our communities if the Federal Government were doing its job enforcing our borders and immigration laws in the first place. Also at my request, this CJS bill restores that funding, and in fact increases it by \$30 million, to a total of \$210 million. This is by no means a full reimbursement, but it is an improvement, and it is certainly better than the President's proposal to defund the program altogether.

Madam Chair, the CJS appropriations bill also places greater emphasis on programs that protect women from violence and exploitation. It contains \$425.5 million for Violence Against Women Prevention and Prosecution programs, representing an increase above existing funding and an amount above the President's request. We will also build on efforts to combat sex trafficking by providing a landmark increase in Victims of Trafficking grants of four times the President's requested amount. All U.S. Attorneys will have to participate in an anti-trafficking task force, and the Department of Justice will be required to continue collecting evidence of 'honor violence' against women in this country.

There are a great many items to be pleased with in this funding bill, Madam Chair. I have mentioned but a few of them, but there are many others with which I agree—increased emphasis on STEM Education, the continued prohibition against the transfer or release of Guantanamo Bay detainees to the United States, dedication to Lyme Disease research, and youth mentoring programs.

The bill contains \$51.2 billion in funding by prioritizing programs and spending, and saves more than \$398 million over the enacted fiscal year 2014 level.

I urge passage of the bill.

RECOGNIZING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY  
OF OUR DAILY BREAD

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 30, 2014*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 30th Anniversary of Our Daily Bread. Our Daily Bread (ODB) is a non-profit organization whose primary focus is combating hunger and poverty in Fairfax County, Virginia.

The organization began in 1984 as a temporary homeless shelter that rotated among several churches in the area. As permanent organizations and programs developed to assist the homeless in Fairfax County, ODB recognized a need that was going unmet—serving those families who, while not homeless, were in financial crisis and in danger of "falling through the cracks." ODB's leadership observed that many people work hard but live paycheck-to-paycheck. Any kind of unexpected expense, such as a car repair, rent hike, or medical cost can throw them into a financial crisis.